

## Area

## Landscaper works on being 'greener'

The dry cleaning business is among the most frequently chastised consumer industries for its use of harmful chemicals, but did you know that many of those same toxins can be released into the environment by some landscapers and masons? Stone sealing solvents expel volatile organic compounds, which not only deteriorate indoor and outdoor air quality, but when misused, can also contaminate public water supplies.

One local landscaping firm is leading the way toward eradicating the use of these products. Beginning this fall, Cipriano Landscape Design began finishing its stone patios and outdoor kitchens exclusively with water-based sealants.

"They are an excellent substitute for the previous VOC products, said Chris Cipriano, president of Cipriano Landscape Design, "and not just because they're less toxic. The water-based sealant is more versatile and can be used both indoors and out on natural or manmade surfaces."

With the VOC-emitting chemicals, he said, there was some guesswork involved in how they would react with the materials they were sealing. Since water-based substances are safe for all surfaces, a stone's finish and texture are no longer factors in determining whether the sealants can be used.

What does this mean for the homeowner? Unprotected masonry is a practical and an aesthetic concern since it is subject to staining, fading, water corrosion, and ice damage. Unlike silane/siloxane solvents, the new sealants can be used anywhere and are safe enough to use in outdoor kitchens.

Having installed 75,000 square feet of natural stone in the past five years alone, Cipriano recommends the water-based sealers be reapplied annually. He notes that homeowners may want to hire a professional, especially for large areas.

"In larger applications, it requires several people to properly apply the sealer," Cipriano said. "Overlapping the sealer often causes streaking, and inexperienced applicators will often track the sealer or get it into places it doesn't belong."

Five states, including New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, now have VOC regulations in place.

"If these small changes can reduce future health risks, then it's an easy choice to make," Cipriano added.

For additional information, call Cipriano Landscape Design at (201) 785-0800.



## Ramsey Girl Scouts learn the ropes

Girl Scout Troop 1212 of Ramsey take a photo with Mayor Botta and council members after participating in a town council meeting.

## Temporary storage units

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members that many residents within the township lack a garage or other storage facility in which to store contractors' expensive equipment and materials, and the township did not have a specific ordinance to regulate this type of storage unit.

The ordinance states that the governing body believes it to be in the best interest of the township to create such ordinance for the benefit and protection of the citizens of the township.

The application for a permit to use a temporary storage unit must be in writing and must contain the following information: the name and address of the property owner and the applicant; a description of the temporary storage unit, including its size and the zone in which the unit will be located; and a statement that the applicant understands and agrees that this storage unit is temporary in nature and has read the ordinance regulating the use of the temporary storage unit.

The cost for a temporary storage unit permit will be \$10,

which must be submitted to the administrative officer with the application, which will be reviewed within seven days, and the temporary storage unit must be placed in a location as directed by the administrative officer.

Because the temporary storage unit must be temporary in nature, the permit will not be granted for more than 30 days, although two 30-day extensions of the permit may be granted. In no case, however, will more than two extensions be granted, unless otherwise approved by the planning board. After the expiration of the initial time period and the two extensions, if additional time is required, the applicant may submit an application for that additional time to the planning board.

No temporary storage unit can be placed or remain on the same premises more than 90 days, cumulatively, within a 12-month period starting with the date of delivery unless it is approved by the planning board. No more than one temporary storage unit can be placed upon any single lot at one time, and the temporary storage unit is not to exceed 16 feet in length.

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